

## PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATION, NEWS AND NOTES

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PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES. The annual report of Dr. Victor G. Heiser, Director of Health for the Phillipine Islands for the year ending June 30th, 1908, has just been issued and is a most instructive and interesting document.

Beginning with a brief résumé of sanitary work since the American occupation, from which one gathers that not the least of the benefits thereby accruing to the natives are those of practical, and intelligently administered health regulations, the report goes on to describe in detail the various diseases met with and the methods of combating them. While the commonplace demands on the force and time of the employees of the Bureau of Health are quite sufficient to keep every one busy, several scientific investigations have been made in public health matters. The diseases of uncinariasis, amoebic dysentery, cholera and trachoma have been the subjects of special attention, and the many treatments for leprosy which are constantly recommended have nearly all been given a faithful trial, the X-Ray treatment having given most hope.

The work on segregation of lepers of the Islands although not complete already shows results in the greatly decreased incidence of this disease and is indicative of its final complete extermination.

The population of the Island, stationary for years, and still subject to an enormous infantile death rate, shows a gratifying increase as a result of the work done.

Manila with its pure water supply, sanitary sewage disposal, hospitals, dispensaries, medical inspection of schools and enforcement of pure food and milk laws is an example of what modern sanitary science can achieve in rendering the tropics habitable and healthy. In view of her excellent hospital facilities, her two medical schools, and of the presence of the large staff of the Bureau of Science engaged in research work, she seems destined to become the medical center of the Orient.

A LAW PROVIDING FOR THE INCORPORATION OF MEDICAL MILK COMMISSIONS and the certification of milk produced under their supervision has been enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey and approved by the Governor, April 21st, 1909.

This law was inspired by the Essex County, New Jersey Medical Milk Commission, the original one of the half hundred or more similar commissions now established in the United States.

These Commissions have in some places operated at a disadvantage in that they had no such legal standing and that anyone who wished could with impunity advertise milk as certified which had not received the careful attention for purity guaranteed by the Medical Milk Commissions.

Such a law as that passed in New Jersey should be on the statute books of every state having a Medical Milk Commission guaranteeing them protection in their good work and safeguarding the public against fraudulent dealers.

MARY MALLON, BETTER KNOWN AS TYPHOID MARY,\* has recently endeavored, by counsel, through a writ of habeus corpus to secure her release from North Brother Island, where she has been confined since March, '07, by the New York City Board of Health.

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\*The Evening Sun, July 16, 1909.

Her counsel asserted that her confinement was illegal, that even though she were so infected with typhoid fever germs that she gave that disease to persons with whom she came in contact, there was no warrant in law for confining her. He said that there was no more reason for imprisoning Mary than there was in seizing and depriving the thousands of persons afflicted with tuberculosis of their liberty and that if she was legally confined the Board of Health could take many thousands of typhoid carriers from their homes and families and deprive them of their liberty.

The Corporation Counsel opposed the release of the woman and submitted to the Court a return setting out the alleged facts connected with the case.

Dr. Westmoreland, resident physician in the Riverside Hospital on North Brother Island, set forth in an affidavit that the hospital was designated for the care of persons suffering from contagious and infectious diseases. He said that Mary Mallon was received at the hospital in March, '07, having been sent there by the Health Department. The record recited that Dr. George A. Soper made an investigation for the Health Department of the patient and her history. Dr. Soper reported that he found that she was infected with typhoid, that in eight years she had been employed in eight families; that in seven of them typhoid followed her appearance and that twenty-six cases were traced to her. Dr. Westmoreland certified that she was infected with typhoid bacilli.

In his decision suggesting that the unfortunate woman, if she desired, could have a referee appointed to hear evidence and to report whether it was true, as she asserted, that she was free from typhoid germs and should be released, the Court says:

"A careful examination of the return and traverse and the certificates submitted satisfy me that the risk of discharging the inmate of the Riverside Hospital is too great

to be assumed by the Court. The injury which may be done to innocent persons if the facts stated in the return be true are incalculable.

"While the Court deeply sympathizes with this unfortunate woman, it must protect the community against a recurrence of spreading the disease. Every opportunity should, however, be afforded to this unfortunate woman to establish, if she can, that she has been fully cured. And she may, after further examination of her, and additional proof of the truth of the traverse, renew the application; or, if the petitioner prefers, the matter may be sent to a referee under section 1015 of the code to take testimony and report to the Court with his opinion. This will give her an opportunity to cross examine the witnesses called against her and to offer her own medical experts to sustain her claim."

THE DEMAND FOR PROPERLY TRAINED MEN IN PUBLIC HEALTH WORK. There seems to be an increasing demand for trained men in Public Health work whether in executive, laboratory or sanitary lines. It is a pleasure to give a word of welcome to those newcomers who, having had special training, are now actively engaged in their chosen profession, and who will soon be giving us the benefits of their experience. Among others we may mention, Robert N. Hoyt, S. B., Mass. Inst. of Tech. now with Dr. George A. Soper of the Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, New York City, Aubrey Straus, A. B., recently appointed City Bacteriologist of Richmond, Va., W. S. Blanchard, M. D., Tufts Medical School, Boston, appointed Assistant Bacteriologist of the Boston Board of Health Laboratory, and C. K. Blanchard, S. B., of the Mass. Inst. of Tech., appointed to take charge of the bacteriological and sanitary work of the town of Wellesley, Mass.

## RESIGNATION OF DR. HERBERT D. PEASE.

The following item of interest to public health workers, appeared in a recent issue of an Albany, (N.Y.) paper:

Dr. Herbert D. Pease, director of the State hygienic laboratory, has sent his resignation to Dr. E. H. Porter, State commissioner of health. Dr. Pease goes to New York city September 1 to become director of the bacteriological work of the Lederle laboratories, the founder and president of which is Dr. Ernst J. Lederle, former health commissioner of New York city, and at present a member of the State water supply commission.

Dr. Pease has been in the service of the State health department since 1901, first as director of the antitoxin laboratory and more recently as the chief of all that department's laboratory work. He has conducted many of the investigations of epidemics of typhoid fever and other infectious diseases and has been a leader in the educational work along public health lines, especially in the development of exhibits, and particularly in the State tuberculosis campaign. He organized and had charge of the tuberculosis exhibition from New York State at the International Congress on Tuberculosis held in Washington last fall. This exhibit was awarded the highest prize, the gold medal for State exhibitions at the congress.

Dr. Pease has been closely associated with the work of the Albany committee for the prevention of tuberculosis and has given a large number of illustrated lectures on tuberculosis and other public health topics, both here and in other parts of the State. He has also held the

chair of lecturer on antitoxine and immunity at the Albany Medical college for the past eight years.

The scope of the work of the Lederle laboratories embraces all phases of sanitary science.

A. J. Slack, assistant chemist in the State Hygienic laboratory, is also leaving to accept an important position in the laboratories of the State Board of health of Ohio, at Columbus.